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WITHDRAWAL SHEET

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Collection Name MATLOCK, JACK: FILES

Withdrawer

JET 5/11/2005

File Folder TOM JOHNSON PAPERS [SDI]

FOIA

F06-114/8

Box Number 28

YARHI-MILO

2811

ID	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
10213	MEMO	MATLOCK TO POINDEXTER RE MEETING WITH TOM JOHNSON, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 11:00 AM [2 - 4] R 9/30/2008 F06-114/8	3	9/20/1985	B1
10214	MEMO	PROPOSED SDI COMMISSION [5 - 5] R 9/30/2008 F06-114/8	1	ND	B1
10215	MEMO	JOHNSON RE ISSUES IN THE SDI [6 - 10]	5	9/23/1985	B1

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]

B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]

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B-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]

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"Tom Johnson Papers"

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506CONFIDENTIAL/EYES ONLY

September 20, 1985

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR JOHN M. POINDEXTER

FROM:

JACK F. MATLOCK *JFM*

SUBJECT:

Your Meeting with Tom Johnson, Saturday, September 21, 11:00 a.m.

You have agreed to meet with LTC Tom Johnson from West Point and me to discuss technical aspects of the SDI program. Tom is the director of the Science Research Lab at the Academy and has more than 20 years experience in R&D and strategic defense matters. Johnson holds a PhD from LLL/University of California and is a protege of Edward Teller, Jonny Foster, both of whom he continues to work closely with on SDI issues. He served as a Special Assistant to Jay Keyworth in 1981-82 (but the relationship soured over matters relating to SDI projects) and serves as an advisor to the SDIP in many capacities. For that reason I would appreciate it if you would hold this meeting very close.

By the way, Tom is also a protege of Archibald McLeish and is a well-published poet. You may also be interested to know that he recently returned from a visit to the USSR where he toured many of their labs at the invitation of Velikhov.

I would suggest that we ask Tom to provide you with a candid assessment of the technical viability of possible SDI systems, identify what are the most promising SDI technologies, and discuss implications for our negotiating position.

I know you have a particular interest in the software aspects of the SDI program. Attached is *an excerpt from* the letter of resignation from Professor Parnas who expressed serious concern with the technical viability of the computing requirements for a successful SDI program and with aspects of the management of the effort. In addition a few of his brief papers are attached that address facets of the problem. Tom will also be prepared to discuss these if you wish.

Attachment:

TAB A Letter of Resignation with Enclosures

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Declassify on: OADRDECLASSIFIED
NLRR 106-114/8 # 10213
BY LOJ NARA DATE 9/30/08

V. Who judges research in DoD?

Although there are a few notable exceptions within DoD, the majority of those who manage its applied research program are neither successful researchers nor people with extensive system building experience. There are outstanding researchers who work for DoD, but most of them work in the laboratories, not in the funding agencies. There are many accomplished system builders who work for DoD, but their managers often consider them too valuable to allow them to spend their time reviewing research proposals. The people who end up making funding decisions in DoD are very often unsuccessful researchers, unsuccessful system builders, and people who enter the bureaucracy immediately after their education. We call them technocrats.

Technocrats are bombarded with weighty volumes of highly detailed proposals that they are ill prepared to judge. They do not have time to study and think and are forced to rely on the advice of others. When they look for advice, they look for people that they know well, whether or not those are people whose areas of expertise are appropriate and whether or not those people can have unbiased positions on the subject.

Most technocrats are honest and hard-working, but they are not capable of doing what is needed.

The result is a very inefficient research program. I am convinced that there is now much more money being spent on software research than can usefully be spent. In spite of this, very little of the work that is sponsored leads to results that are useful. Of that, some of it goes unused because the good work is buried in the rest.

VI. The SDIO

The SDIO is a typical organization of technocrats. It is so involved in advocacy of the program that it cannot judge the quality of the research involved.

The SDIO panel on battle management computing contains not one person who has built actual battle management software. It contains no experts on trajectory computations, pattern recognition or other areas critical to this problem. All of its members stand to profit from continuation of the program.

VI. Alternatives

If there is good research being done by SDIO it has an applicability than is far broader than the SDI itself. That research should be managed by teams of scientists and engineers as part of a well organized research program. There is no need to create a special organization to judge this research. To do so is counterproductive. It can only make the program less efficient.

VII. Conclusion

There is no justification for continuing with the pretense that the SDI battle management software can be built just to obtain funding for otherwise worthwhile programs. DoD's overall approach to research management requires a thorough evaluation and review.

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NLRR FOG-114/8 #70213a

BY LOJ NARA DATE 9/30/08

THOMAS H. JOHNSON

- 1. Lt. Colonel USA; 15 Air Force Service; currently dir. science research Lab West Point
- 2. PHD; Physics; U of Calif.
- 3. Protege of Edward Teller & Jonny Foster
- 4. 20 yrs. experience & R&D relates to strategic defense
- 5. Special asst. to Keyworth 81-82
- 6. Adviser to SDIO in several capacities

Topics

- 1. Technical viability of various possible SDI's
- 2. Most promising SDI Technologies
- 3. SDI & Arms Control; central elements

~~SECRET/SENSITIVE~~

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NLRR F06-114/8# 10214

BY WJ NARA DATE 9/30/08

PROPOSED SDI COMMISSION

Chairman, John S. Foster, Jr.

Vice President, TRW

Executive Secretary, Dr. LTC Thomas Johnson

Director, Science Research Lab, USMA

Scientists

Alvin Tribblepiece
Director, Energy
Research, DOE

John Nuckolls
Assoc. Director
for Physics, LLL

Tomithy P. Coffey
Civilian Director
Naval Research Lab

Edward Teller
LLL

Konrad Longmire
Mission Research

John M. Deutch
Provost, MIT

Political/Government

Paul Nitze
Department of State

Brent Scowcroft

Henry Kissinger

Strategic Elite

Larry Gerschwin
NIO for Strategic
Programs

Al Carnesale
Academic Dean
Kennedy School

Sayre Stevens
President, Systems
Planning Corp.

Norm Augustine
Martin-Marietta
Former Chairman, DSB

William Perry
Former DDR&E

Arnold Horelick
RAND

Glenn Kent
RAND (LTG/USAF-Ret)

Paul Kaminsky
COL/USAF-Ret, Former
Stealth Fgm Mgr.

Andrew Goodpaster
Director, IDA

Colin Gray
President, Institute
for Public Policy